

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Media consolidation is giving a few mega-corporations a stranglehold on local markets. News is becoming narrower, shallower, and tailored to what corporations want us to hear. I object to Chairman Powell's references to us, the public, as just "consumers" or "customers". We are citizens, and the corporate media have hijacked a public asset -- the airwaves that belong to everybody -- to sell their own images and ideas. The media industry has an obligation to foster democracy and socialize future generations, not just sell products to "customers". To get or renew a license, they ought to have to answer the question, "What are you doing for the public interest and the good of the community as a whole?" They ought to have to prove that they are giving the public enough civic benefit in return for being given the chance to use the public airwaves.